

Our University

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESIDENT FOR THE UC COMMUNITY



January 2007 – Text Version

This text-only version of “Our University” from the UC Office of the President is intended to be posted in order to be accessible to members of the UC community without easy access to a computer at work. The web version is available at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/ouruniversity/01_07.

FOCUS

Governor proposes major research and innovation initiative for California

One of the highlights of Gov. Schwarzenegger’s State of the State address and 2007-08 state budget proposal is an important research and innovation initiative that would invest state funding in a number of UC research projects supporting the state’s economic and environmental objectives.

The proposal also will help UC continue helping California retain its leadership in the field of “green” technology. California already has adopted landmark legislation calling for a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and UC scientists are pursuing an aggressive research agenda to help the state meet those goals and continue its environmental leadership.

The governor’s research proposal includes the following: \$30 million in lease revenue bonds for the Helios Project, an initiative by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to create sustainable, carbon-neutral sources of energy; \$40 million in lease revenue bonds for UC Berkeley or UC San Diego in the event that either wins a global competition for the BP Energy Biosciences Institute, which will focus on the development of alternative fuels; \$20 million in general funds for operations of the California Institutes for Science and Innovation, four cross-disciplinary, public-private research institutes located at UC campuses and focused on scientific fields with great potential for economic development in California; and \$5 million in state matching funds in the event that Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, UCSD’s San Diego Supercomputer Center, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory win a National Science Foundation competition to build a “petascale” computer that will be the most powerful computer in the world and that, if sited in California, would give an enormous competitive advantage to California scientists.

“California is home to the most innovative, ambitious and creative people in the world, and they have helped put our state at the forefront of so many emerging industries,” President Dynes told the press when the initiative was announced. “This takes nourishment from the state to keep California competitive and to maintain that edge for which California has come to be known.

“When the governor included funding in this coming year’s budget to support the multidisciplinary research efforts of the Institutes for Science and Innovation at the University of California, he sent the strong message that the best and the brightest should work, study, and create here in California.”

SYSTEMWIDE NEWS

Governor's budget proposal funds enrollment growth, salary increases

Gov. Schwarzenegger has issued a 2007-08 state budget proposal that funds his "compact" with UC, including funds for student enrollment growth and faculty and staff compensation increases. In a tight budget year overall, the governor has proposed a 6 percent state funding increase for UC.

The budget proposal does not propose state funding for UC academic preparation or labor research programs, and President Dynes has said the University will make a strong appeal to the state to continue the funding for both. The budget also assumes increases of roughly 7 percent in mandatory systemwide student fees and 10 percent for select professional school students.

The governor's budget combined with other UC revenues would provide a 5 percent pool for employee compensation increases in 2007-08, compared to the 4 percent pool this year. (Distribution is subject to collective bargaining where applicable.) This increase is intended to begin closing the market pay gap affecting many faculty and staff.

The governor's proposal did not contain funds requested for the restart of employer contributions to the UC Retirement Plan. The Regents have voted to resume employer and employee contributions in July 2007, subject to the budget process, availability of funding, and collective bargaining. In the wake of the governor's budget, the Regents will continue discussions with the state about funding for employer contributions. President Dynes has stated his position that employee contributions should not be restarted until employer contributions are resumed as well.

Two new UC chancellors appointed

President Dynes and the Regents have filled two vacant chancellors' positions at UC. Gene Block, a biologist and provost of the University of Virginia, has been named to lead UCLA, and Steve Kang, engineering dean at UC Santa Cruz, has been named chancellor of UC Merced.

New faces at UCOP include General Counsel Charles Robinson and Vice President for Student Affairs Judy Sakaki.

Regent Lansing wins special Oscar

Regent Sherry Lansing, former chair of Paramount Pictures Motion Picture Group, has been voted the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award by the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The Hersholt Award is given to an individual in the motion picture industry whose humanitarian efforts have brought credit to the industry. An Oscar statuette will be presented to Lansing during the 79th Academy Awards presentation on February 25.

Lansing helped Dr. Armand Hammer form the nonprofit organization Stop Cancer and serves on its board. She is on the board of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, founded to honor excellence in basic and clinical science, and is a trustee of the American Association for Cancer Research. In addition, she serves on the Citizens' Oversight Committee of the California Institute for Stem Cell Research and on the American Red Cross Board of Governors Advisory Committee and is a trustee of the Carter Center, the human rights organization formed by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn.

Staff advisors to Regents made permanent; nominations sought

The Board of Regents voted January 18 to approve the permanent positions of Staff Advisor and Staff Advisor-Designate to the Regents. The Staff Advisor Program, approved by the Regents in January 2005, allows for two staff and/or non-Senate academic employees to be selected to participate in open

sessions of certain committees of the Board. The Staff Advisors bring the voice and perspective of staff and non-Senate academic employees to deliberations on relevant matters that come before the Regents.

The 2005-06 Staff Advisors were Dave Miller, who participated in meetings of the Committee on Grounds and Buildings, and David Bell, who participated with the Committee on Educational Policy. For 2006-07, at the recommendation of President Dynes, Miller has continued to serve as Staff Advisor and Lynda Brewer was selected to serve as Staff Advisor-Designate. Miller and Brewer now are jointly serving on the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Educational Policy. UC staff members can contact them at david.miller@ucop.edu and lynda.brewer@ucop.edu.

The Office of the President has announced a call for nominations for the next Staff Advisor-Designate, who will serve from July 2007 through June 2009. Information about the program, along with the application, will be available on the Staff Advisor web site at www.ucop.edu/staffadvisorpgm/ as well as in hard copy at each UC location. Applications will be accepted through February 28.

More faculty elected to AAAS

Fifty-six UC researchers have been elected fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific society. Nine of UC's 10 campuses are represented in the the most recent election of fellows, and the UC-affiliated fellows constitute more than 10 percent of the 449 new association fellows.

With this latest election, there are approximately 530 UC researchers who are fellows of the association.

Chosen by their peers, association fellows are recognized for their distinguished efforts to advance science and its applications in a wide variety of fields, including agriculture, biological sciences, education, engineering, medical sciences, psychology, and social sciences. The new fellows will be recognized at the AAAS annual meeting in San Francisco on February 17.

Innovative UC medical education programs move forward

With the November passage of Proposition 1D, the University of California is taking the next steps to implement its new "PRograms in Medical Education" (PRIME), which are aimed at improving health care for underserved populations and communities in California. The additional \$200 million in capital funding authorized by Proposition 1D for these programs, together with state support for enrollment growth, will be used to support new educational and clinical programs using telemedicine.

New PRIME students will represent a 10 percent increase in enrollments (the first net increase in UC medical education enrollment in over 30 years) and are part of the first phase of the University's plan to increase medical school enrollments by approximately 34 percent to help address state health workforce shortages. The University's PRIME programs will produce an additional 250-300 physician-leaders committed and trained to serve California's underserved communities, including inner-city areas, rural communities, the Inland Empire, and the Central Valley.

The PRIME-LC program, designed to train physicians to serve California's large underserved Latino population, is already in its second year at UC Irvine. PRIME programs are also being developed at other UC medical schools. Areas of focus will include rural health/telemedicine (UC Davis), health equity/health disparities (UC San Diego), and urban health (UCSF), with the emphasis of an additional UCLA program to be determined later this year.

UC sustainability efforts recognized

The University of California continues to lead the way in adopting and implementing environmental sustainability programs. From the ongoing expansion of recycled materials programs, to purchasing renewable energy, there were scores of accomplishments in 2006 for UC.

The Santa Barbara and Merced campuses were recently chosen as pilot participants by the U.S. Green Building Council to participate in a pilot program for the leading green building organizations in the country. UC Santa Cruz has undertaken purchasing 100 percent renewable energy for its campus, and eight campuses have become members of the California Climate Action Registry.

UC Berkeley recently formed the Cal Climate Action Partnership (CalCAP) to develop a long-term strategy to significantly reduce the campus' greenhouse gas emission, while its campus dining hall Crossroads was the first U.S. campus dining hall to receive an organic certification for its salad bar from the California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF). To achieve certification, Cal Dining developed a set of rules governing everything from how dishes are washed to how food is prepared.

Matthew St. Clair, who was active in the environmental sustainability student movement at UC Berkeley and now serves as sustainability specialist at the UC Office of the President, said the higher education sustainability movement has been growing quickly across the country, led in many ways by the University of California.

"At current count there are 75 building projects at UC that have set green building targets," St. Clair said. "We are also projecting annual operating savings resulting from energy efficiency projects at over \$2 million and growing."

The green building and clean energy policy was adopted by the Regents to improve the environmental performance of the University. In January 2006, the policy was expanded to address sustainable transportation practices and greenhouse gas emissions. "The first three years have seen a whirlwind of activities," St. Clair said. "And all of this would not have been possible with the support of the students, faculty, staff and administration."

Jubilee Daniels, LEED for Existing Buildings project coordinator at the Office of the President, said there are many small things UC employees can do to advance green actions at work. "One thing I would recommend is paying attention to products purchased for your department," she said. "For example, departments can purchase paper that has a high amount of recycled material. In the back of the Office Max catalog, you can find a sizable selection of recycled products, and products with a high percentage of recyclable material."

Daniels said some simple energy-saving actions can sometime get overlooked by employees. "Turn off your computer monitor and printer at night," Daniels said. "It saves tons of energy while also enhancing security."

Employee web site gets makeover

At Your Service -- <http://atyourservice.ucop.edu> -- is getting a fresh look. The redesigned systemwide web site for UC employee information about human resources and benefits has been re-launched with improved navigation and several new features, including:

- A "Total Compensation" section with news; features on how real UC employees deal with their salary, benefits and retirement plan; and a tool that enables individuals to calculate the value of their total UC compensation
- A new "UC Living Well" web site with information about wellness programs and services.
- Quick links to the most-requested tools and publications.

The redesigned site will continue to provide access to employees' personal UC account and benefits information, along with regular updates about UC benefits news.

DYNES' DESK

Dynes' Desk is a way for anyone to email a comment, idea, or suggestion to President Dynes. While he is not able to respond personally in most instances, President Dynes does read each email submitted. In each edition of "Our University," he will respond to a couple of Dynes' Desk submissions. Write to President Dynes at <http://universityofcalifornia.edu/president/desk.html> or at 1111 Franklin Street, Oakland, California 94607-5200.

Comment: I am deeply concerned by the recent announcement that all UC employees will have their salaries disclosed on a public website. As an employee, I do not feel comfortable having my salary made public nor do I want to see how much (or how little) my colleagues are earning. Having this information will only breed frustration and concerns about equity among the staff and will threaten employee morale. Please reconsider your current plan and respect our privacy.

Bob Dynes: Thank you for your note – I know this is on the minds of a lot of employees, and I am sensitive to the concerns that faculty and staff have about this. We are still working through the details of how this will work, and how we balance fulfilling our obligation to public accountability and transparency, with employees' sense of privacy. As I think your note makes clear, the real issue is equitable and competitive pay for everyone, and not publicizing what we pay people, and we need to and will continue to work hard to ensure adequate compensation for everyone. At the same time, because we are a public institution, salary information is a matter of public record and something UC is obligated to disclose -- it simply is one of the realities of being a public institution, and something that other public universities and institutions already do.

Comment: Something must be done about the rise in health care costs. After many years of small or no pay increases, the staff finally receives a reasonable increase, yet it is offset by the increase in health care and retirement benefits contributions. It is hard to make ends meet when costs keep rising at a faster rate than salary.

Bob Dynes: You're absolutely right. We need to do everything we can to preserve the progress we've made on salaries, and we continue to work hard to do just that. We are continuing our salary-based approach to health insurance, which means lower-paid employees pay lower monthly premiums, and the plan to restart pension plan contributions early allows for lower initial contributions. The longer we wait to restart contributions, the more underfunded the plan is expected to be which will mean higher contributions from both UC and employees. Some things, like the rising cost of health care nationally, are beyond our control, but you can be assured that we are doing everything we can to manage costs in order to maintain good employee benefits and help employees maximize their raises.

Write to President Dynes at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/president/desk.html>.

PROFILE

A. Kimberley McAllister, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

UC Davis Center for Neuroscience

In October of 2006, Kim was named Young Investigator of the Year by the Society for Neuroscience in recognition for her highly regarded work in the field of developmental neurobiology. As if that wasn't enough, she and her husband Marty Usrey, also a neuroscientist, recently celebrated the birth of their second child. Kim is currently working on a part-time schedule, juggling the demands of research and teaching with those of her growing family.

Q. What do you enjoy most about your work?

A. I love the challenge of designing new techniques to address some of the most simple, but intractable, biological questions. The best part, of course, is discovering something completely novel -- something that no one has seen before and is completely unexpected. Teaching is also incredibly rewarding. The best part of teaching is pushing students to reach their potential and then watching them achieve a level of understanding they didn't think they were capable of.

Q. What is the most challenging aspect of your work?

A. The most challenging aspect of my work is definitely trying to balance my passion as a researcher with my passion for my family. There's simply not enough time in the day to do everything I'd like to do.

Q. How do you maintain symmetry between the obligations of work and those of family?

A. Balancing the demands of a growing family with research is incredibly challenging, but I absolutely love both and I wouldn't be happy giving up either. So, I don't get much sleep. Having a husband who is an equal partner in our family is essential. We support each other and equally share responsibilities at home.

It is also critical to manage your time wisely and to have the support of the University. The Center for Neuroscience at UC Davis is particularly family-understanding. There are a lot of female faculty members here and almost all the young faculty (men and women) have young kids. To maintain our high standards for graduate education and research productivity, we help each other out when we can and support each other always. It's a great atmosphere here.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Through all the budget cuts of recent years, UC has worked to continue providing the classes students need for timely graduation. Today, the average time to degree for an entering UC freshman is four years plus one quarter.
- Six UC campuses are members of the prestigious 62-member Association of American Universities, a representation unmatched by any other state.
- Two-thirds of UC students receive financial aid, totaling nearly \$2 billion per year – more than \$1 billion of it in grants and scholarships.

What would you like to read about the UC system in future editions of "Our University"? Send your feedback and story suggestions to communications@ucop.edu. Produced by Strategic Communications, University Affairs, UC Office of the President.